

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4625
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 2731

PANAMA FOR ROBERT PASTOR, NSC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PINS, DR

SUBJECT: PRESS CONFERENCE OF APPARENTLY VICTORIOUS PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATE IN DOMINICAN ELECTION

1. THE APPARENTLY VICTORIOUS PRD PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, ANTONIO
GUZMAN, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY INTENDED TO RESPOND
TO PRESIDENT BALAGUER'S TV ADDRESS OF THURSDAY EVE, MAY 18.
THE MAIN POINTS OF GUZMAN'S REMARKS WERE THE FOLLOWING:

A. THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS WAS "ENCOURAGING" AND CLEARED UP
DOUBTS WHETHER DEMOCRACY WOULD BE PRESERVED IN THE COUNTRY. THE
CHIEF OF STATE HAD CONFIRMED THAT HE WOULD RESPECT THE ELECTION
RESULT AND THAT THE PROCESSING OF THE RESULTS WOULD BE COMPLETED
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SINCE ALL THE DOCUMENTS WERE ALREADY HELD BY THE CENTRAL
ELECTORAL BOARD.

B. THE SPEECH WAS A CONFESSION THAT THE REFORMISTA PARTY HAD
LOST THE ELECTIONS. GUZMAN AND MAJLUTA CONSIDERED THEMSELVES TO
BE ELECTED AS PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
BASED ON THE TRUE RESULTS OF THE MAY 16 VOTING.

C. GUZMAN APPEALED FOR CIVILITY, TRANQUILITY AND HARMONY BY ALL INSTITUTIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO CORRESPOND TO THE SENSIBLE ATTITUDE THAT HAD BEEN SHOWN BY THE DOMINICANS THUS FAR. THE COUNTRY HAD GIVEN AN EXAMPLE OF MATURITY AND CIVIC MINDEDNESS IN THE PROCESS THAT HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT.

D. ALL DOMINICAN SECTORS COULD BE ASSURED THAT "OUR GOVERNMENT WILL GOVERN AS A TEAM, TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE OPINIONS OF THE VARIOUS SECTORS OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT BEFORE TAKING IMPORTANT MEASURES." HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC WOULD MAKE THE FINAL DECISION BECAUSE HE WOULD GOVERN ULLY, WITHOUT PRESSURES FROM ANYONE.

E. THE COUNTRY'S INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THE ARMED FORCES, WOULD BE RESPECTED AND STRENGTHENED FOR THE GOOD OF DOMINICAN DEMOCRACY.

F. WHEN PRESIDENT BALAGUER ENDED HIS PERIOD OF GOVERNMENT, AS GUZMAN HAD PERSONALLY TOLD HIM, HE WOULD BE RESPECTED, WOULD BE TREATED WITH ALL THE RESPECT DUE A MAN WHO HAD CONSECRATED HIS LIFE TO THE WELFARE OF THE FATHERLAND AND HAD DONE FOR THE COUNTRY EVERYTHING THAT A GOOD GOVERNMENT LEADER SUCH AS HE HAD BEEN SHOULD DO. HE AND HIS FAMILY WOULD BE TREATED WITH THE GREATEST CONSIDERATION BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT INSTALLED ON AUG 16.

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G. THERE WAS NO FEAR OF FRAUD IN THE COUNTING OF THE VOTES BECAUSE THE PRD HAD COPIES OF ALL THE DOUCMENTS PREPARED AT THE POLLING PLACES SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENTS OF THE BOARDS OF EACH MUNICIPALITY AND WITH THE SIGNATURE OF EACH DELEGATE OF THE REFORMISTA PARTY PRESENT AT THE POLLING PLACE.

H. THE MESSAGES OFPRESIDENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ON THE NATIONAL SITUATION DID NOT CONSTITUTE FOREIGN INTERVENTION SINCE THE POSITION OF LATIN AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS WAS JUSTIFIED IN THAT THERE WERE RUMORS INDICATING THE POSSIBILITY OF IGNORING MAJORITY WILL AND THE MESSAGES WERE DIRECTED TO THE PRESIDENT POINTING OUT THESE FEARS.

I. IN THE FOREIGN POLICY TO BE FOLLOWED BY HIS GOVERNMENT, THERE WOULD BE AN OPENING TO ALL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING CUBA. PRESIDENT BALAGUER HIMSELF HAD ENTERTAINED FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH CUBA THROUGH SPORTS AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES.

J. THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY WOULD BE REGULARIZED IN A FEW DAYS, HARMONY WOULD REIGN AND FAITH IN DEMOCRACY WOUL BE STRENGTHENED. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THERE WOULD BE A GNERAL STRIKE.

EVENTS OF THE PAST WOULD BE BURIED ON AUG 16 AND FROM THAT TIME ON THERE WOULD BE A SERIOUS GOVERNMENTN, WITHOUT CORRUPTION AND COMPLETELY DEMOCRATIC.

K. THE NATIONS'S MOST IMPORTANT MILITRY SECTORS WERE CONSCIOS OF THE GRAVE SITUATION OF THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE. GUZMAN BELIEVED THAT BY CONDUCTING THEMSELVES IN OBEDIENCE TO CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL PRINCIPLES, THEY WOULD MAINTAIN RESPECT FOR THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF NATIONAL LIFE. THE MILITARY INSTITUTION WOULD BE STRENGTHENED FOR THE GOOD OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. THERE WAS NO REASON WHY THE MILITARY SHOULD OPPOSE A PRD GOVERNMENT. DR BALAGUER HAD BEEN SUPPORTED BY THE ARMED FORCES BECAUSE HE WAS THEIR COMMANDER IN CHIEF. AFTER AUG 16, THEY WOULD HAVE A NEW COMMANDER IN CHIEF AND WOULD SUPPORT HIM AS WELL IN TRUE
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OBEDIENCE TO CIVIL POWER.

L. THE GUZMAN GOVERNMENT WOULD INSTITUTE TRUE, SCIENTIFIC AGRARIAN REFORM.
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